



Life Course

Childhood Resilience Factor

Brief Name

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten
Attendance

Indicator

Percent of children enrolled in state-funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) programs.

Description

This is a measure of the percent of four-year-olds who are enrolled in any state-funded 4K, not including Special Education, or Head Start.

| WI | US | Best | Worst |
|--------|-----|-------|------------|
| 70.6%* | 29% | 79.5% | 0% |
| | | FL | (Multiple) |

Year

2013/2014

Numerator

Number of four-year-olds enrolled in any state-funded 4K program, full or half day

Denominator

Children aged 4

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

Importance

This metric tracks the percent of children enrolled in quality early education, which has demonstrated widespread benefits for all children, with particularly positive effects for minority racial groups. Though enrollment in 4K is not mandated, parents are likely motivated to enroll their children because 4K programs reduce the cost of child care by providing an educational placement for children; 4K has no eligibility requirements aside from age; and these programs provide education based on learning standards (DPI, 2016). Enrollment in 4K leads to increased readiness for further education, as well as enhanced individual characteristics, such as self-control, and self-esteem (NIEER, 2014; Bainbridge, 2005; Wong, 2008). Additionally, 4K attendance may be a marker of available educational resources (e.g., tracking prioritization of early education by local and state governments).

Limitations

The early advantage experienced by children in 4K depends on the quality of the 4K program, a factor that is not tracked in this metric. Standards, however, are in place and can be found online at the [Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards](#).

This metric does not differentiate between half-day and full-day 4K.

Source

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Admissions and Early Entrance to Four- and Five-Year-Old Kindergarten. Accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/kind/admission> (2016). National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). The State of Preschool 2014. Accessed online at http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Yearbook2014_full3.pdf (2014). Bainbridge, Jay, et al. "Who gets an early education? Family income and the enrollment of three-to five-year-olds from 1968 to 2000." *Social Science Quarterly* 86.3 (2005): 724-745. Wong, Vivian C., et al. "An effectiveness-based evaluation of five state pre-kindergarten programs." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 27.1 (2008): 122-154.